

1851 JUNE 2

Lewisburg June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1851

Dear Ben

I suppose that you have wondered why I have not written before this, the reason is that I have been so unwell since I have been here that I have not had much time for anything at all, I have had the fever and ague nearly every day since I have been here. The school this session is very thin and a great many new students here while the best portion that were here when you were here have not returned. Professor Taylor leaves in the fall. The room that you and I used to occupy is filled with two country jakes, Andy and I occupy the room that Mrs Elder and Dina used to sleep in, it is a very small room and you can imagine how warm it will be this summer. Last Saturday I received an invitation to Mrs De Conte pie nis, did you receive one? When I came up I met Lewis Merrill at the Junction on his way to West Point, he said that he would have liked to see you. Ben when you answer this letter tell me when your school breaks up ours breaks up eleven weeks from next Wednesday. Andy is still working at his trade and intends continuing at it this summer. Rittenhouse is not here this session but Johnny Smith is still here. Ed Green is boarding at Mrs Bækahus with Joe McLean.

I commenced this letter last Monday expecting to send it on Tuesday morning, but on that morning I had another attack of the ague and was very sick all day. This morning I received a letter from you dated May 30<sup>th</sup>, and was glad to hear that you were well. I spoke to Justin in regard to that Society matter and he said that it was all right.

In your letter you say that you regret the change you have made, and would sooner be in Lewisburg, I don't <sup>think</sup> you would want to stay here this summer if you were here for a while, for the school is thin and nothing going on. I am tired already and wish the session was over, but I think that if I had my usual health I should like it better and enjoy myself more than I do. You want me to give you all the news in Lewisburg, well to tell the truth there are very little here, but I will give you all there is. Last Monday they brought the telegraph wires to this town and fixed them up in Mr. Heacock office of the Chronicle, it is now in operation. The other day our friend Mr. Mc Gadder inquired very affectionately for you. Your friend Mr. Jones is teaching school, he has about twenty-five scholars; as I passed there the other day he was standing at the door, he looked at me very hard enough to say where is Benny. The house that Mrs. Elder used to occupy last winter, they are putting an extension to this summer. Well Ben I think that I have given you all the news in Lewisburg at present. Harry Ford is here this summer. Alfred Hays has quit school. F. G. Beck is not here this session. Jim Mc Gregor nor the Truett boys are not back. N. Hall is here. Tommy Hood is not here.

Ben I shall have to close as I have nothing more to say. When you tell me when your school breaks up and when you expect to be in Harrisburg. Write very soon

Your affectionate  
John. S. Gorster

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Mr. Benjamin S. Foster  
Pennant School  
Hartsville  
Bucks. County  
Pa.

1851 JUNE 13

Lewistburg June 13<sup>th</sup> 1851

Dear Ben

I received your truly kind letter dated June 9<sup>th</sup> by yesterday's mail. I am glad to hear that you are well and beginning to like your new School, which I hope will continue so. I am attending to my Studies as usual, and it is beginning to go quite well. By this time I have got rid of the Aque, having had nothing of it for the last ten days and I hope that it is a going to leave me altogether. This town is most ~~un~~outrageous dull, and the students that are here this Summer are not much better. You wish to know whether there are any new young ladies here this Session, there are a few, but the majority of them are from the country and of course very Dutch, Harry Johnston's Sister and Pennypacker's daughter are among the best looking, you can form some opinion what kind of looking girls are here this Summer. Mag McFadden and Em Blodst inquired very affectionately for you the other day; of course I gave them a full account of your whereabouts and all your best respects. You wish to know when Lewis Merrill will be at West Point and his directions. He is to be there between the first and twenty first of this month, the direction is this. H. A. Lewis Merrill. U. S. Military Academy. West Point. New York that is all that is necessary. You say that Frank Church is to be at your school, you can tell him where I am and that I would like to hear from him, when he has leisure time; ask him how long he expects to remain in Harrisburg, and tell him that I will be in Yo. about the twenty first of August and

Should like to ~~see~~ hear see him very much if he would still be there. Ben did you have a pair of Slippers in the Outspan room Ed Green says that there is a pair there and he thinks that they are yours, when you write tell me if they are yours and what I shall do with them. I told Ed Green what you said about his entering Yale college in the fall, he says that he dont know yet whether he will go to college in the fall or not, but that he is not a coming back to this place. You say that you had a letter from Lil Rutherford and she says that Alick Johnston and Sam Lawrence are beginning to go with the girls, that is a move that I never expected to <sup>hear</sup> as for Sam I always thought that he was too bashful, and for Alick it may do him some good, as it may take away some of his rowdism, I wish them both good luck. I had a letter from Father a few days ago, they are all well at present, he says that Mr Stevenson has sold out his stock of groceries and returned to Baltimore. I wonder what poor John Murphy will get at, I should like to hear very much. Father says that Mary Simons is in Harrisburg with her two children, and that Henry has returned home, he thought that <sup>the place</sup> did not agree with him, I think that he had a good reason to think that the place did not agree with him, as I understand he was sent away.

I suppose that as your place is so small that there will not be much, going on, on the fourth of July although this place is small, they are trying to get up something. There is to be a party on that hill opposite to Northumberland comprised of persons from this place Milton, Muncy, Williamsport and all the small towns around, I think that if I can get off I shall go down in the afternoon. The school has also speaking by members of the Junior Collegiate class, I believe that Messrs Blakely, Armstrong, Lane, Still and Mc Loud are the speakers. Last Saturday afternoon the fire company had a parade, the company

is composed of about thirty members, the people in this town thought  
that it was something grand to see them, but it was nothing  
compared with the firemen of Harrisburg.

Ving is spending this week in Wilton with Miss Schroer of this  
place, she expects to be down on Saturday.

Well Ben I shall have to close as my pen is very bad, and is  
getting worse every line I write. So good bye, give my best respects to  
all that inquire for me.

B. V. Answer very soon.

your friend D. S. B.....

Your Affectionate to  
John P. Conster

Mr. Benjamin L. Foster  
Yennant School  
Wartsville  
Bucks Co<sup>r</sup>  
Pa



1853 JAN. 10

Hartsville Jan 10<sup>th</sup> 1853.

My Dear Mother

I am again at school, and I hope soon to be again at study. I came out on Saturday afternoon, and left James in the city, and think he will be there till Thursday. I spent a very pleasant time in the city. I saw Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Douglass and the Dickisberrys. (I fear I have not spelled the name right) Mrs. Eldridge is a very pleasant lady (I took dinner and tea at Capt. Johnstones, and I was there most of my time,) she looks very well. They all seem to think a great deal of James.

I did not see Dennis Mahon as I did not know her address, and if I had, I could not have found time to call on her, but James will, before he leaves the city. James did not mention, what his business in the city was, and I heard nothing while there, of his intention to do as we supposed, we will

Mrs. Eldridge has two fine children Stuart and Lillie, and I think she feels the loss of little Rose as they call her very much. Stuart is I think very intelligent for one so young. I felt as much at home there in a short time, as if I had been at home, and I was sorry to leave the city, before I was generally glad to get out of it. I have told the Misses

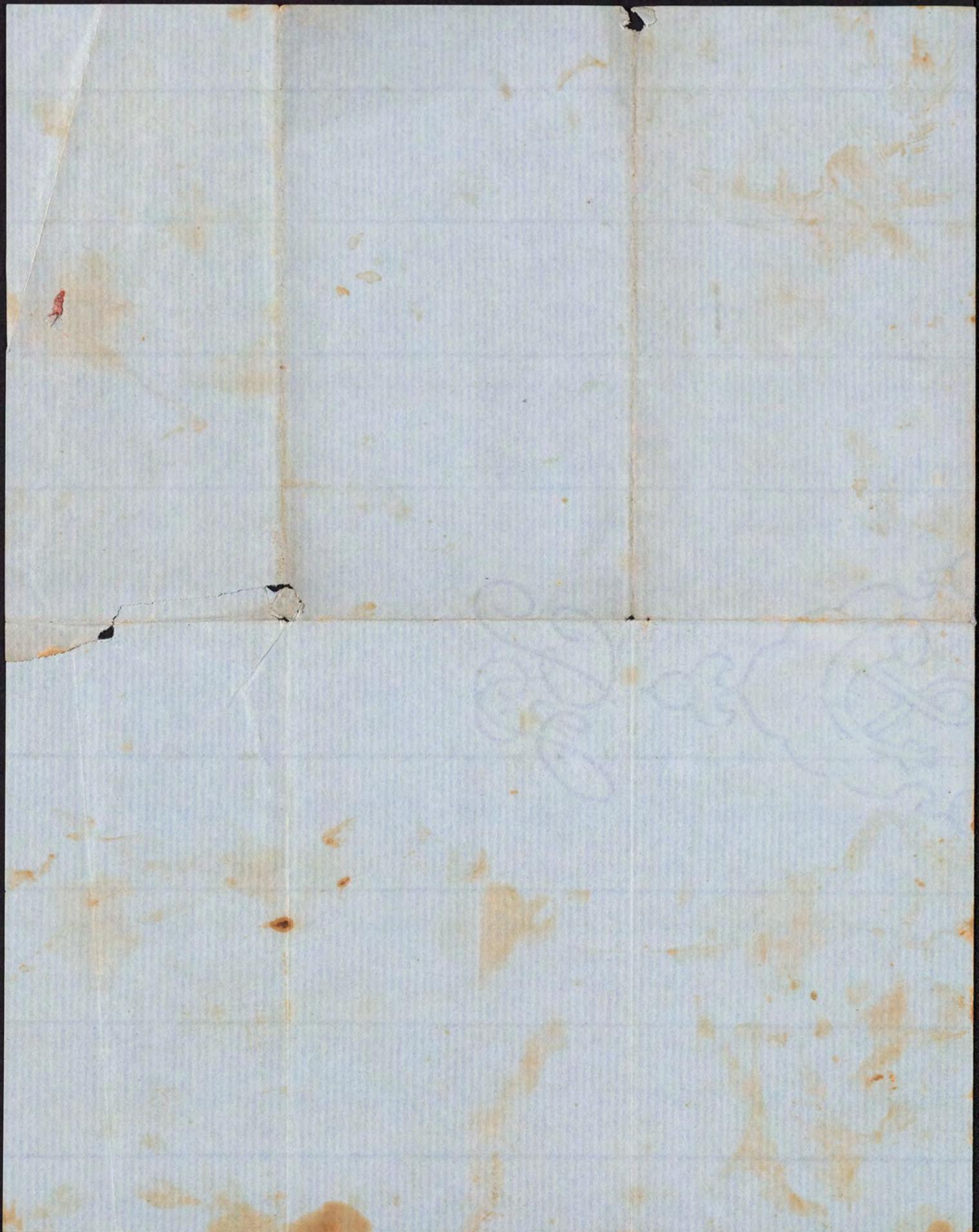
long when I want to go to college, and they say  
I can do it, but I make my self perfectly easy on  
that score, as I know there will be no difficulty if  
I do as I ought to. I suppose you do not see so  
much of Bob and Mont since James is gone, and  
you have less trouble about the smoking. I have  
not yet get over the low spirits, that always attend  
me on leaving home, and I look back to these little  
things with longing, and a wish that they were to  
do over, as you said after I leave home, I always  
see things that I might have done better, but you  
know that it was not from a want of affection  
that I <sup>am</sup> wrong, but from a habit I have gotten. Do  
not think that this is the repentance attending  
some sickness, I may think of it more just after  
leaving home, but I often think of it. I shall write  
to Father on Friday. I have written quite a long letter  
and I will close. Give my love to Father. Grandfather  
and the children. Write soon to

Your affectionate son  
Benj' S. Horner.

I should like very much if you could send me  
the papers during the session of the Legislature, I have  
written a short letter to James to know when he would  
be at Erie. I will expect a letter soon from you, as  
I always am anxious to hear from home, and I

hope you will not disappoint me. Give my love  
to Aunt. Adieu.

Ben.



1853 Nov. 27

Yale college Nov 27 1853

Dear Mother

I have just returned from church, my fire is out and the room very cold, I will write but a few lines. I received your letter some days ago, and should have answered it sooner, but I am now very busy and can find but little time to write, the term is drawing to a close, and it will take every moment of my time, to regain my stand, it is a very difficult matter when once below average, to come up, but I don't despair but that, I will succeed. Tell father, that on last Friday I asked Prof. Hadley whether I was improving my stand, he told me I had made considerable improvement. I measured it ~~too~~ <sup>15</sup>, which is considerable, but I am still low. Yet I have every hope that I will succeed. Thanksgiving day is over, it is here a day very much like our Christmas, and it was a very cold one we did not have cold weather before that. I have a great many letters to write but my friends will have to do without answers until I have more time at my disposal, we are terribly driven here, we recite three times a day, and even if one does not study still there is a great deal of care on his mind. You must not expect me to write often, or long letters the remainder of this term.

but as I find the improvement I have made I will let  
you know it. I think the improvement is not on Greek  
alone. But my room is too cold for me to write longer  
in St. Mts soon. Give my love to Father Grandfather  
and all, I will answer Dadd's letter as soon as I  
can. Your Son affectionately

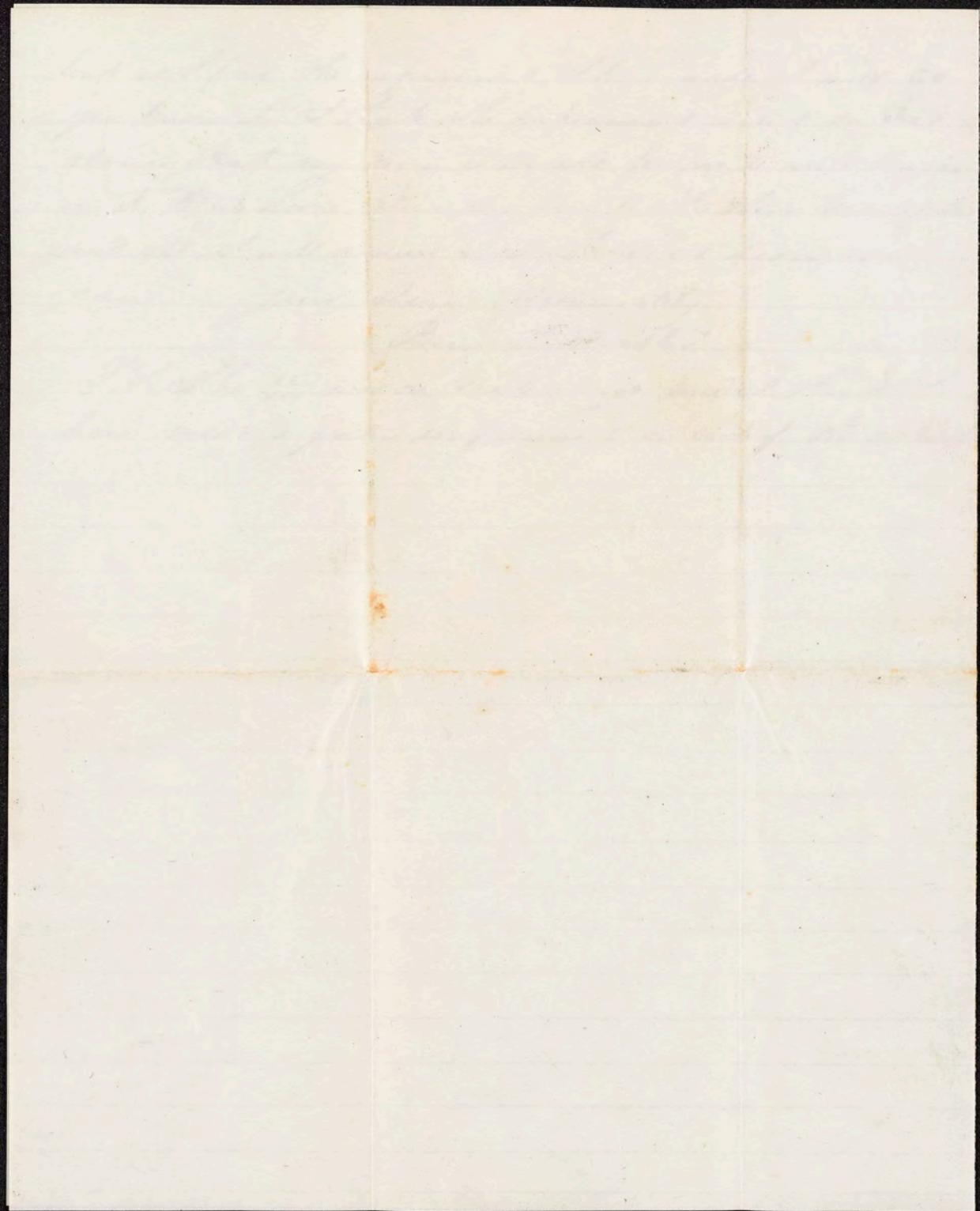
Benj. S. Foster.

P.S. The <sup>14</sup> was on Greek alone, and I think I  
have made a greater improvement on each of the others.

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1853 Dec. 16

Yale college Dec 16<sup>th</sup>, 1853.

My Dear Father

When I wrote to you on last Sunday. I said that I would ask Professor Hadley's advice, as to my going into the examination, I have done so, and he advised me not to do so, but either to take leave of absence or a dismissal, he told me, and my friends also, that I would not succeed at the examination, and that it would be far better for me to, withdraw myself than, be rejected and I have taken a dismissal, or at least arranged it, that I could do so when my bills are paid, and in such a manner that I could again enter my class. Professor Hadley wished me to enter the next class, but I told him that I did not wish to do, and that you would not wish it, that if I entered college again, it would be with my present class, for I knew that if I could have had one more year, I could have passed the examination, and that is all that is required, but as I have been very regular I could give no reason for having it sent off. You said in your letter that you thought, that thus far my education had been misdirected. I know that it has been, I feel that the Messrs. Long did not do me justice, and when I left there they told me I was prepared for college. I was not, and I have failed, in those studies they paid the

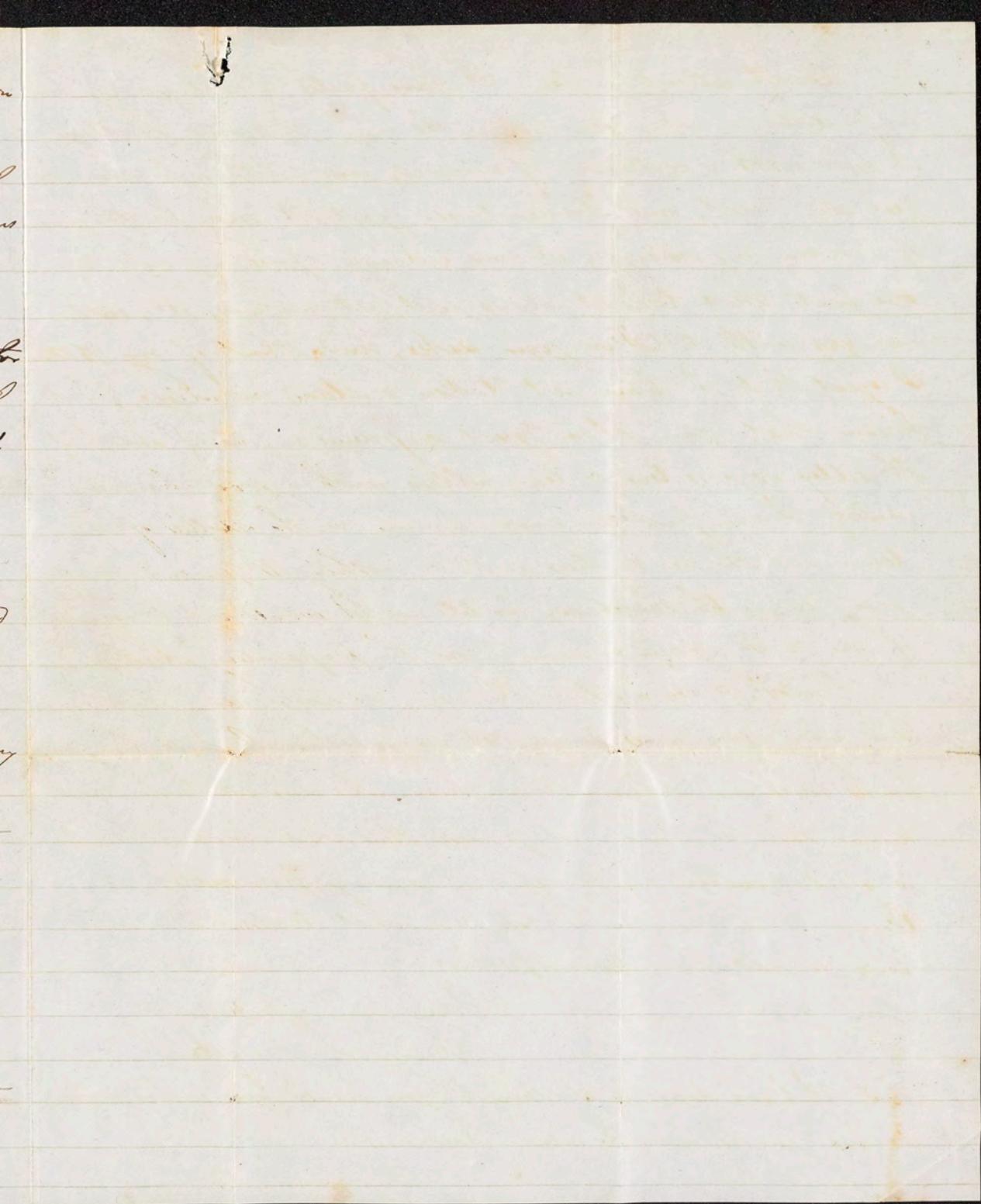
the least attention to. I have failed to realize my own expectations, when four months ago, I came to college it was with a certainty of success, and although now I feel disconcerted, and disheartened, yet it may be the means of arousing my energy, it has certainly opened my eyes to one fact. That talent alone will not answer, it needs energy with it. For your sake, and that of my Mother I regret that I have not taken a stand in college, for I know that you placed great confidence in me, if what Prof. Hadley says is true I leave college with a good character and if I can pass an examination on the studies of this term and the next there will be nothing to prevent my going on with the class, he told me it would not be required of me to be again examined on the preparatory studies.

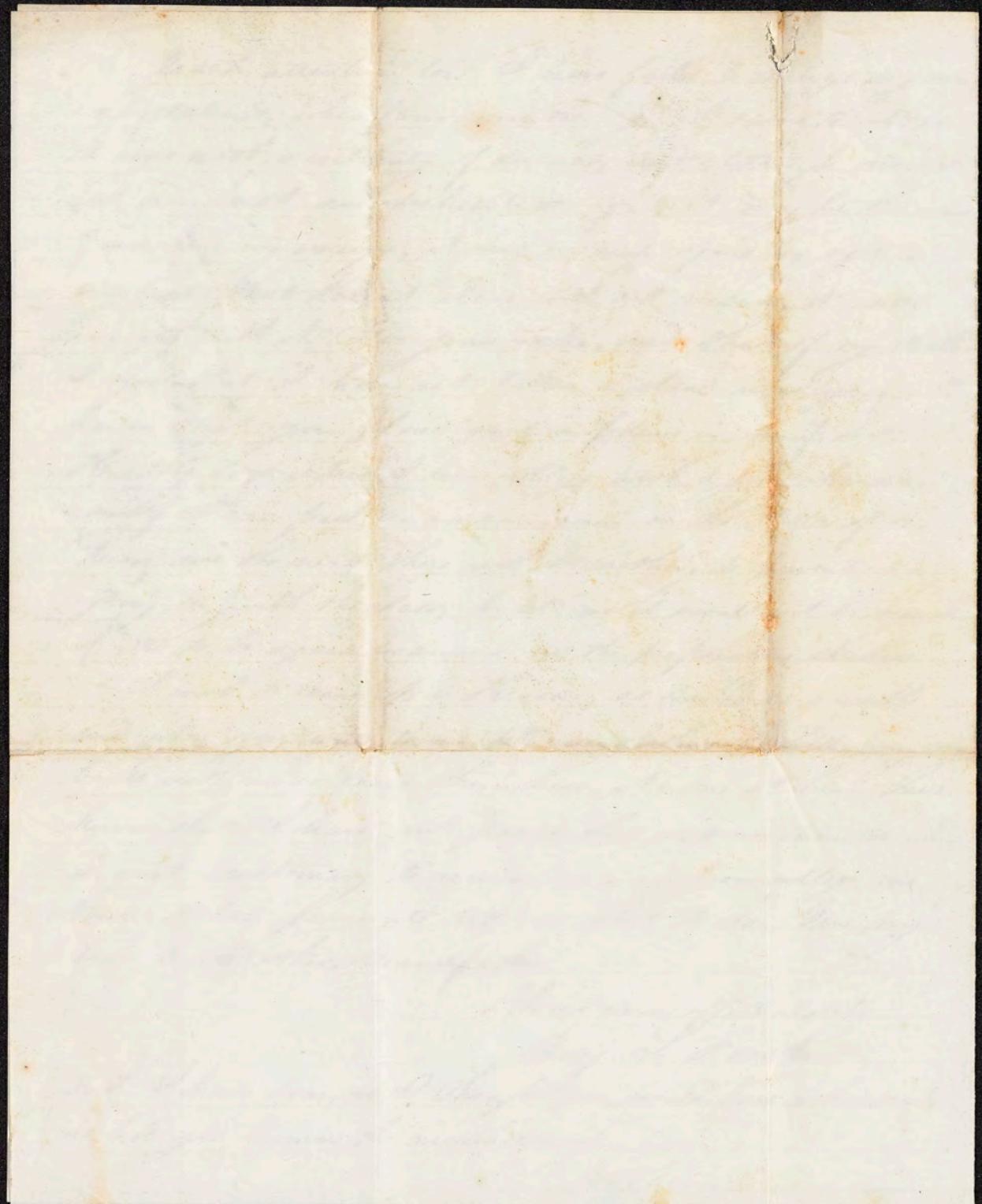
I wish to leave New Haven, as soon as possible and when you write to me, tell me whether I shall bring my books with me or leave them here. No one at home had known that I have not passed that examination, as it is quite customary to remain a year from college one term. When you write tell me what to do. Give my love to Mother, Grandfather,

Your son affectionately  
Benj. S. Forster.

Benj. S. I have done, as I thought you would have wished me to do had you known the circumstances.

Benjamin





1853 Dec. 26

New Haven Dec 26<sup>th</sup> 1853.

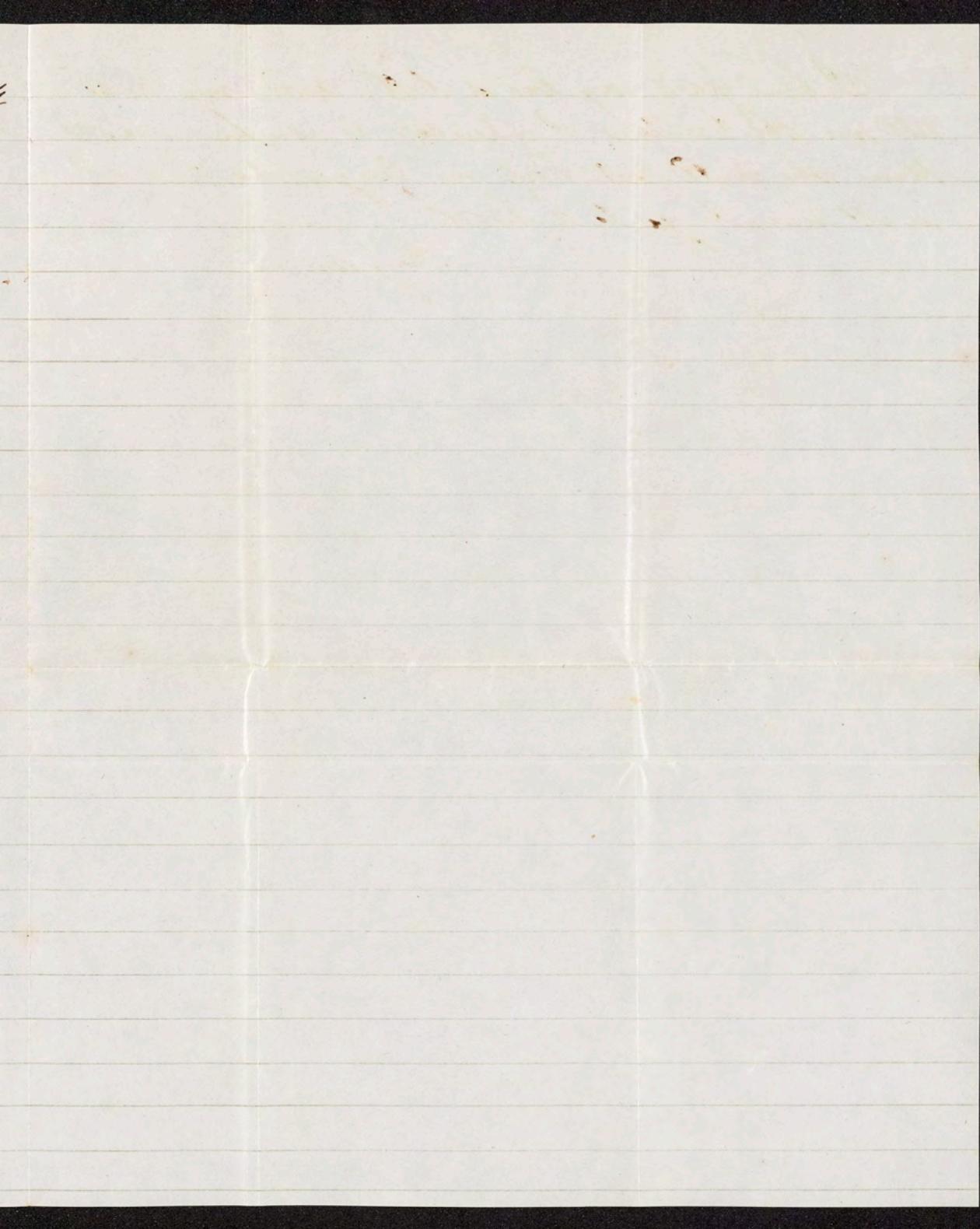
Dear Father.

This morning I received your letter containing a draft for \$50. You say that my letter was as deficient in information as the former one. My bills are \$91, with the money I received I will pay my bill at my boarding house, and then there will remain \$46 ~~of~~ unpaid, the money I have received this term I have an account of, but it will be impossible for me to return home before my bills are paid, as they will not let me go, and I can't get a discharge before my term bill is paid and I will have but five dollars, and that would not buy me far. I am very fond, as I am doing nothing here, and am but a trouble to my friends. What things I have that I would wish to sell, cannot ~~now~~ <sup>as present</sup> be sold, and when sold will not bring much. Do you wish me to sell my books. I had intended to bring those home. My bill unpaid are now \$46, and money to come home on, and until my bills are paid I cannot leave, as the man with whom I room will not permit me.

Yours ever affectionately  
Benj D Foster.

I have paid my board bill, and my landlady told me that unless I intended to remain next term she could not keep me longer, so that I will have to go to a hotel.

Very anxious



Will you try to see him and  
to get him to promise to give  
him a child. It happens that  
I want to get a child for you.

GEO: H. IRWIN,  
Attorney-at-Law,  
Office: No. 3½ N. Third Street.

1874 Oct. 31

Harrisburg, Penna., October 31st. 1874

Dear Ben:

I shall be greatly obliged to you if you can arrange the matter about which we spoke, by next Tuesday when I expect to be in town. I dislike exceedingly to speak allude to it in any way & only do so because you having first voluntarily mentioned it & because I am urgently in need of some revenue just now, as I am pushed ~~up~~ closer to the wall than ever. On the strength of your promise I have got myself into a straight & don't see how I can get out.

I wrote you only because I have been away since last Tuesday & am going <sup>away</sup> again to be absent until next Tuesday noon. If you can do me the favor requested you will really very much oblige

Yours truly

Benj: D. Foster Esq

Geo: H. Irwin



1875 May 3

# Mechanics' Bank,

Harrisburg, Pa., May 3 1875.

A. G. Elton - Esq., Cashier

Dear Sir:

Yours of ..... is received.

I enclose, for collection and credit,

Unsf the note of Mr B. L  
Foster is taken up within a  
very few days I will put it on  
the hands of our A/c for collection  
Mr Foster is trifling with  
me & I will not wait a

Respectfully,

J. C. Bomberger,  
Cashier.

1881-1882

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1875 May 28

May 28<sup>th</sup> 1875

Dear Ben:

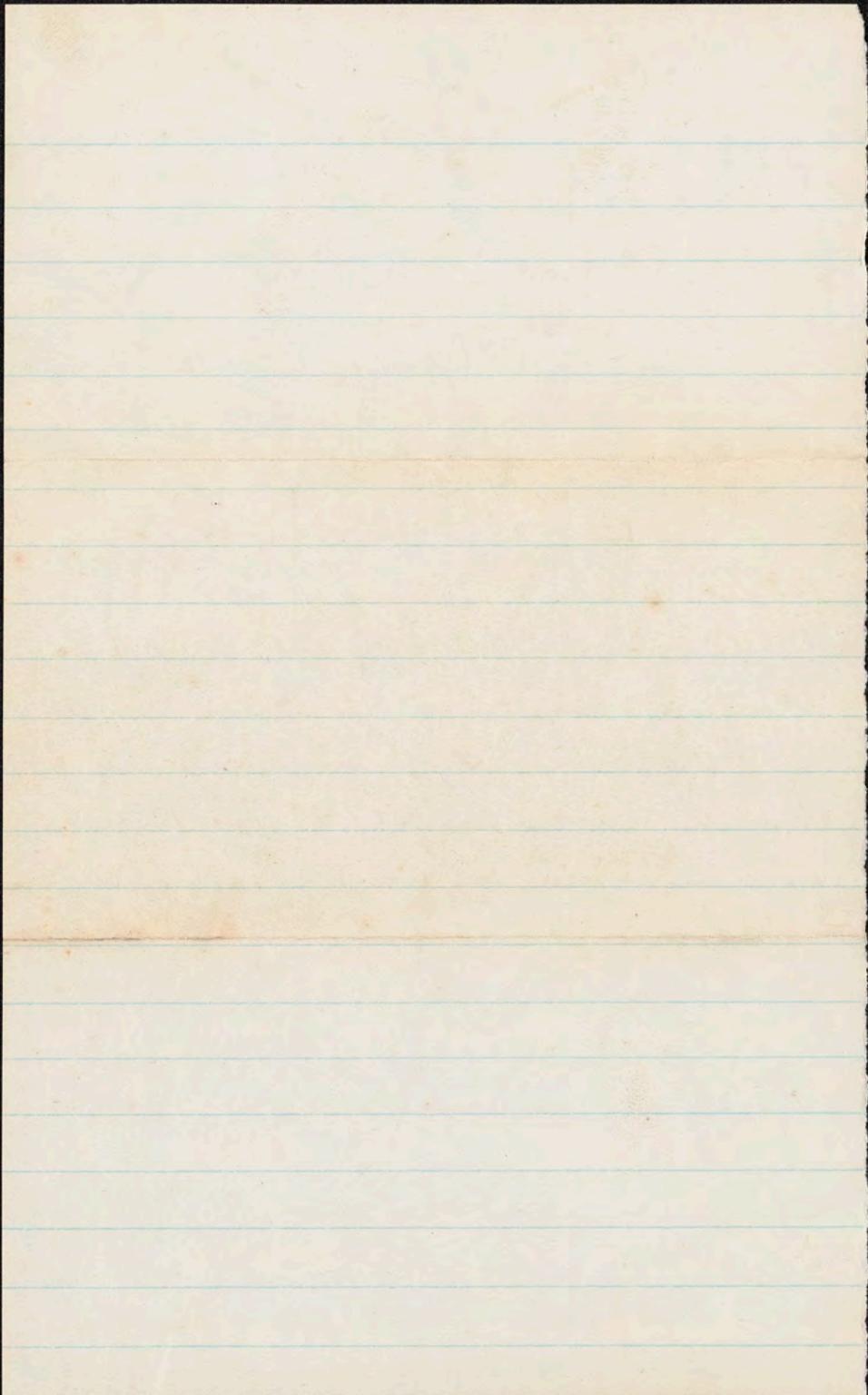
You will not only favor Mr. Epy but myself also, if you can find time to fix up the bond according to promise. He left town last Tuesday morning for an absence of several weeks, but before going he gave me positive instructions to have the new bond substituted for the old one. I shined little very much to accomplish this so that he can lay no blame on me on his return. It is unpleasant to me to insist on calling your attention again to the matter, but I need only mention the duties of course to find my excuse.

Yours &

Geo: H. Irwin

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Benj: L. Foster, Esq



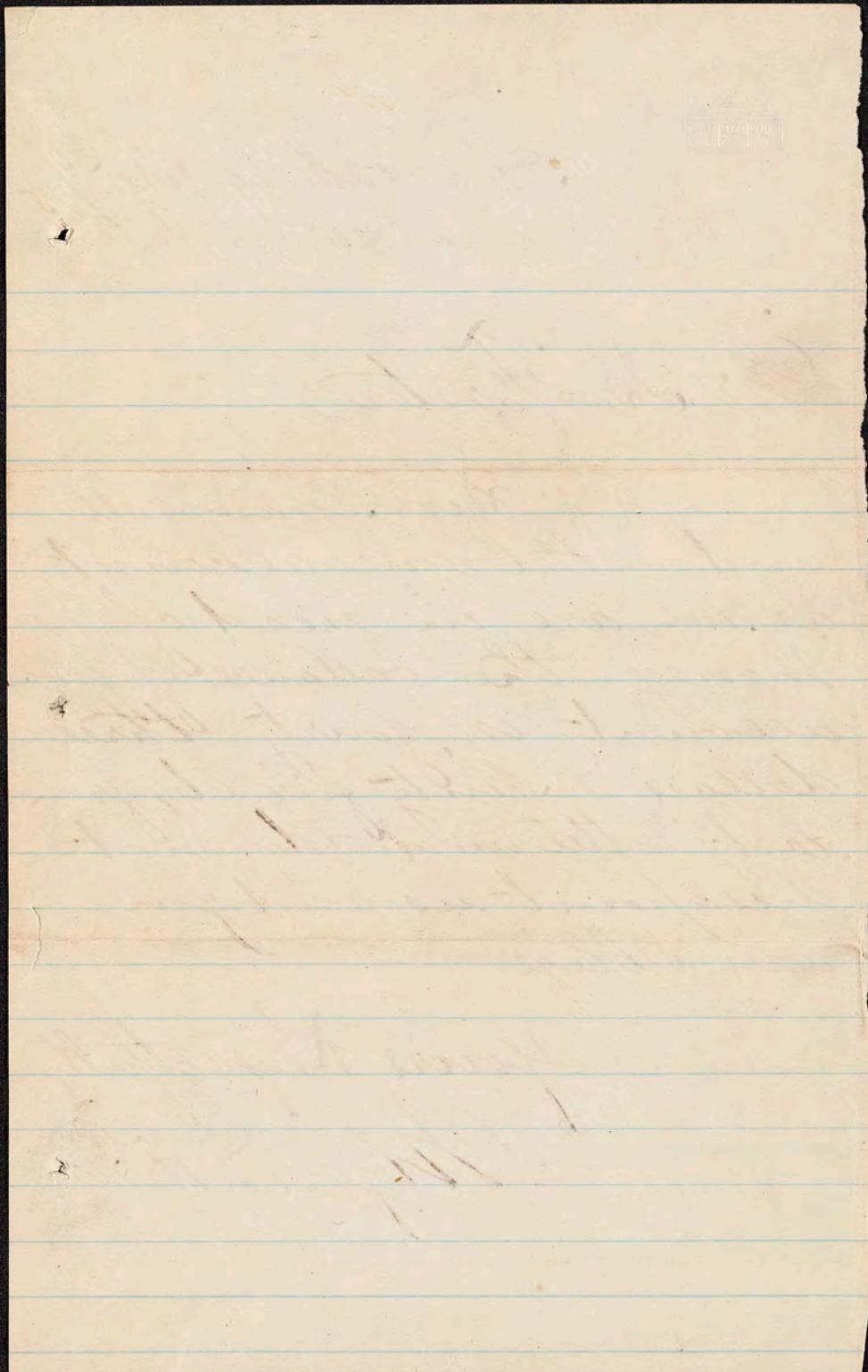
1875 July 30

Harrisburg July 30/75

Mr B. Forster

Sir Please call  
and settle your account  
as we are in need of  
Money the balance of your  
account is forty three  
dollars & Ninety five cts, from  
last Settlement do not  
dissapoint us and you  
will Oblige

Yours Respectfully  
Myers & Bro



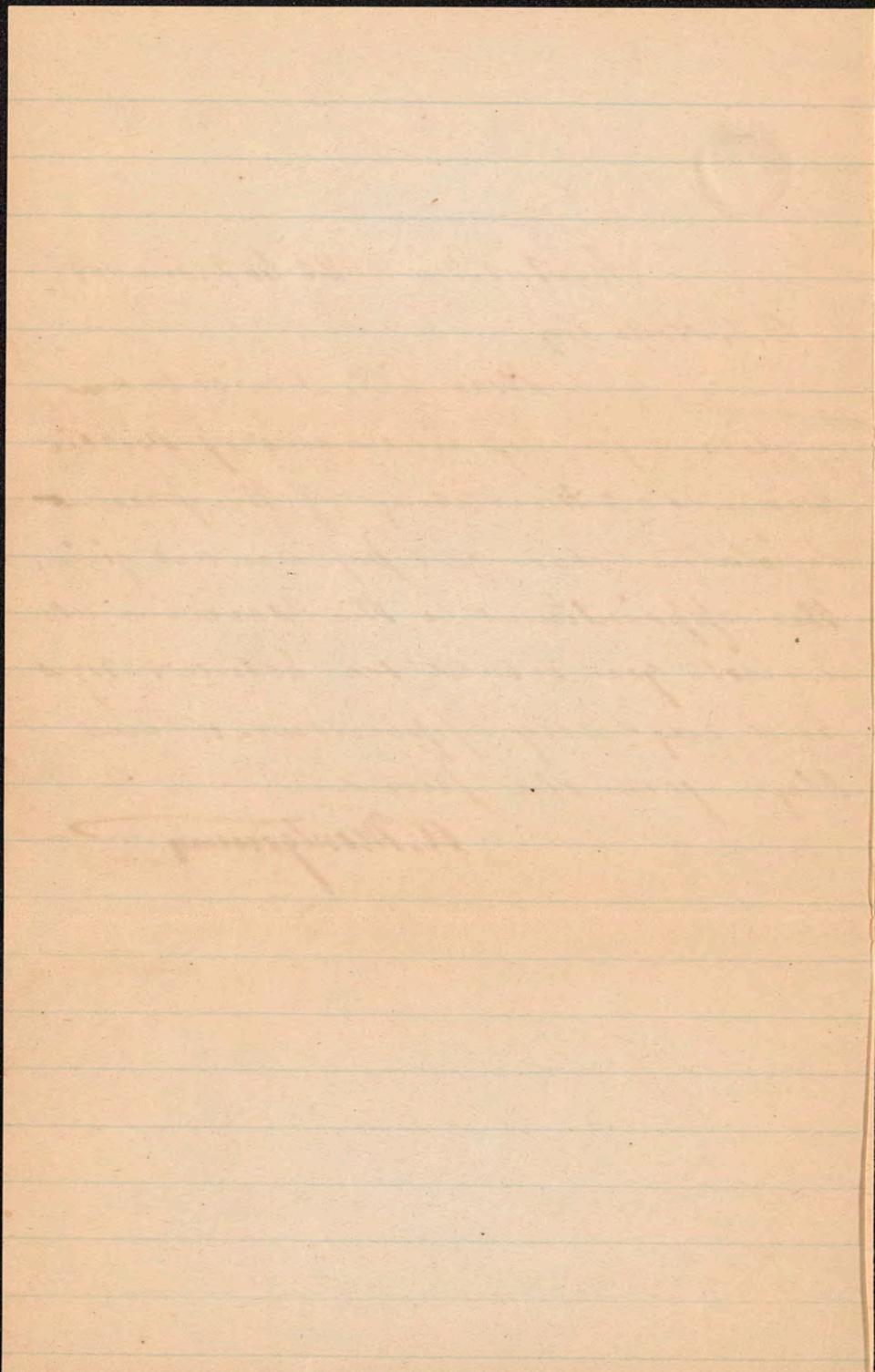
1878 Mar. 12

Montgomery N.Y. 26 March 12<sup>th</sup> 78

B. L. Foster Esq

Dear Sir: I will be an  
applicant for Superintendent of Public  
Grounds at Harrisburg. If the present  
Legislature does not pass an act giving  
the appointment to the Governor alone  
I wish you would see Schell & Rogers  
and urge my appointment. And  
believe your old friend

R. Montgomery



1882 Jan. 20

W. H. &  
CO.  
EST.

John. 20th 1882  
Bly & Foster Esq  
Dear Sir

I would be much  
obliged if you will call at  
my house at  $7\frac{1}{2}$  to 8 this  
evening  
Yours truly  
Charles L. Bly

Called upon Mr. Bay  
I am enemy = discern  
They come not certain

D.

WILLIAM E. BAILEY,  
Harrisburg, Pa.

1887 Apr. 12

April 12 to 1887  
Dear Foster & Son  
10 Decr. 1887

I have long wanted  
to see you when you collect  
the Tuesday evening. And the  
service should have called  
me as I was staying away down  
on accident I need not tell.  
If you are not engaged, I will  
please to see you this  
evening from 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 8 P.M.  
Yours truly  
W. E. Bailey

Castalia

Rev. L. Foster Egger  
No 7. South Front St.  
Hannibal Mo



[n. d.]

Harrisburg March 15<sup>th</sup>

Dear Friend

Received your letter last thursday. The first thing I must tell you is that Miss Street has gone home to prepare for her wedding she went last monday and did not bid any of us good bye. She said she knew it would affect her so much that she would not be able to go that day. I never loved a teacher as much as I loved Miss Street. I guess you think that is the way you never love her till she is gone but it is not so with me. I always did love her and always will. Our new teacher just came to school. I cannot judge what she will be on so short an acquaintance. But I must confess she is not much for beauty and I dont like Mrs Le Conte will ever get another teacher like Miss Street

the girls are all moving vorigeade on. On Saturday he is to go on in three weeks. Mr. new teacher named is Miss Etter. The Hutchinsons are to sing in Hanisburg to night and tomorrow. Interested going to night and then Miss Parker gave us nine pages in Geology and then I thought I might as well give up all thoughts of going as I have as just many other lessons besides. There is a paper here from Yale called the Yale Bangs. I thought perhaps you might like to see it and I would lend it to you. it is pretty poor thing I must say and I think they are a pretty bad set of boys that edit it. I don't think there was even a boy unless he had very high moral principals went to college that did not return more than before they do. the freshmen are so persecuted by the Sophomore classes that in their eagerness to use their abilities leads them astray and before they are aware of it they are engrossed with all the vices of a college life and then the temptations are so great that unless you have great firmness of character you are scarcely able to resist them and if you do not resist them

you grow wiser and wiser till you are expelled and thus  
you are paid for your folly. This is my own private  
opinion I guess you think I have given a long lecture  
about that paper and it was not worth writing  
Mrs. Hale's bed room caught a fire and Peter  
Bucklar reported this afternoon that Mrs. Harry  
said he saved nearly all the clothes except her fine  
porcelain. ~~say indeed~~ I pity him. I have  
not read the story you alluded to in your last  
letter but I am going to try and get it to read  
Tom Shunk supplies me with books from the  
State Library but I have not much time to read  
as I have so many studies to attend to but my  
letter is getting rather long and I must close or you  
will get tired reading it. Your friend

Lill.

P.S. please tell me how Mrs. Coburn's son  
person wants to know write soon.



[n. d.]

Harrisburg February

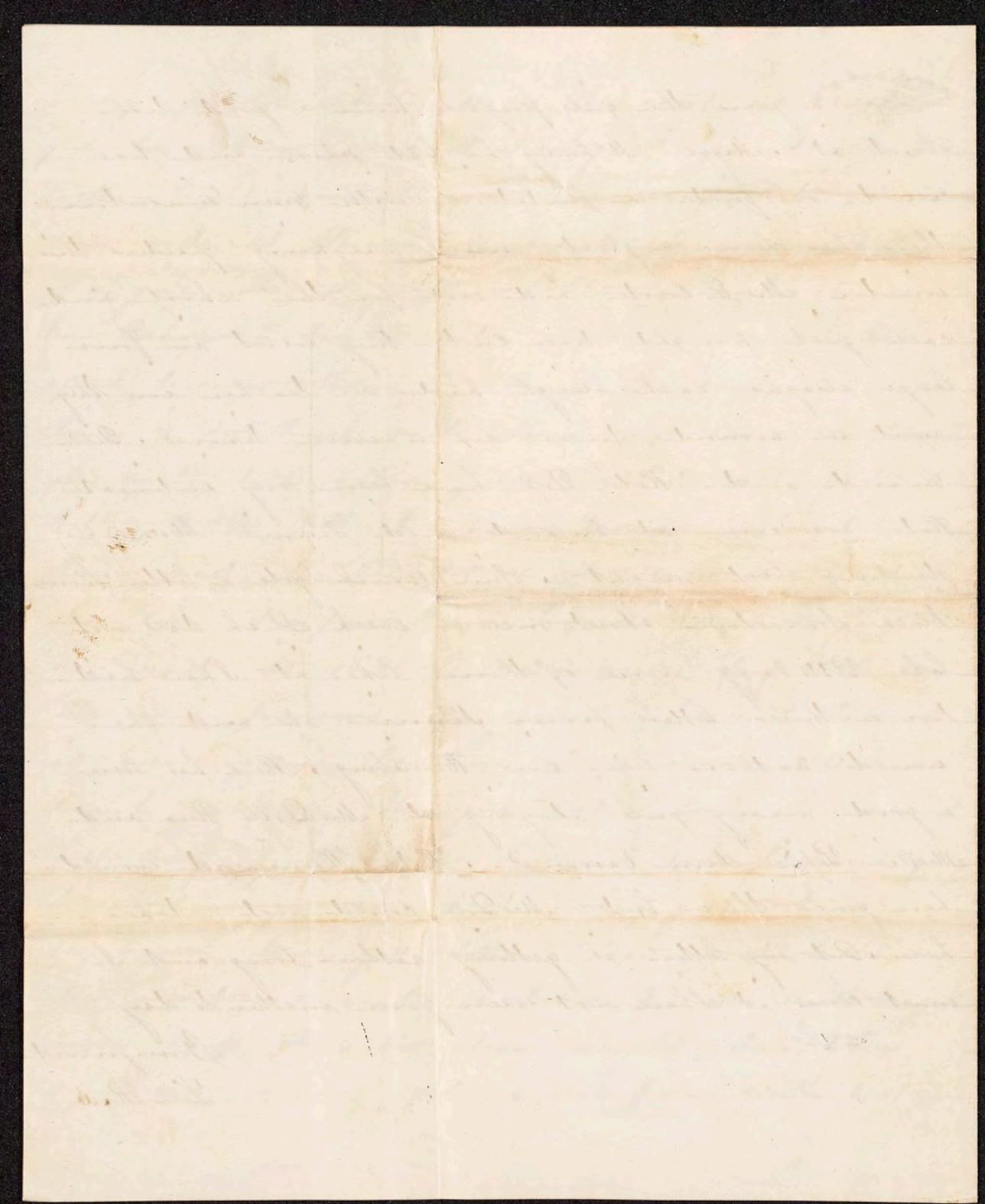
Dear Friend

I received your letter yesterday I thought as we had not any school I would answer your letter. The examination passed off very well the Celestines party which was in the evening the house was crowded the girls were all dressed in white with blue sashes the compositions were read by Miss Street and Miss Parker in the day the lessons were recited the reports read and two magazines given to who ever had the best report. We all feel greatly relieved since it is over you asked me why Mrs Le Conte closed her school so early she has not closed it it does not close till July. Was Rose Brooks here when you were in Harrisburg I mean Mrs Le Conte sister she

is very ugly but I think she is the most affectionate  
girl I ever knew she and I are great friends & we have  
another bright character in our school Kate Hammond  
she boards at Shanks if want to know what  
of a girl she is just ask Tim Shanks she is  
Em Bishop's husband's sister neither Tim nor her  
speak to each other sometimes for week she says  
Tim is to dumb and Tim says she is to dumb  
she can't talk. I have just finished reading the  
Pole of Cedars I think it is the most beautiful thing  
I ever read. the character of the jewess is a good  
deal like the jewess in Ivanhoe. I suppose you  
have read it one of Scott's novels they both have  
the same firmness of character I intend to read  
it over again I admire it so much Tim  
Shanks supplies the girls with books he is about  
half crazy about Anna Person she does not go  
to school any more and never goes out of  
the house Tim goes down there and looks in  
the windows and watches Anna Gaid caught  
Tim and Alex the other night I suppose  
you know he has got a clerkship worth 600

a year the girls plague him a good deal about it. Maggie McKinley has left school and has carried on quite a flirtation with Green Linonton. There has been a great many sleighing parties this winter. Mrs. Le Conte had one for the school and each girl brought ten cents they went in four large sleighs each sleigh had a teacher in. They went all around town six or seven times. Bill Garland and Kate Doll have been very intimate. Kate was over at Garlands and Remmie Mackay staying last night. Jim Shank gets a letter from Alice Johnston about once a week Alice does not like Pittsburg more of them like it I have had two or three letters from Nannie she said she would rather live in Haningburg. There has been a good many girls staying at Mrs. Dolls Rose and Mollie Pipp's. Ann Cummel. Kate Hammond would have gone there but Mrs. Doll could not take her. But my letter is getting rather long and I must close it I have not seen your mother to day.

Your friend  
Lill Ruth



Dauphin County

Dauphin County

Brig' Foster Esq

Sam'l. John

Dec 16

Barney  
84 West  
New York

[n. d.]

Lewisburg May 2<sup>nd</sup>

Friends Ben,

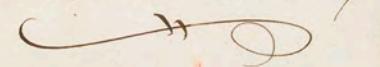
I received your letter and was glad to hear from you; but sorry to hear that you did not intend to come back to Lewisburg. I made all possible haste in packing up your books and lamps. I think the lamps will carry safe. "As good luck would have it", Johnson Walls' boat started this morning and I put the boxes on board of it. The captain would not stop at Antes' ware-house, as he had to stop at Johnson's. You will find your goods there. There are two boxes, directed to Gen. John Forster. It cost me about 50cts to pack them. If Mother is in H., you can pay her.

Give my respects to your Father and Brothers and to your Brother's family. Excuse haste.

P. S. Write me soon.

Andie  


Yours truly,

Andie Elsberg  








Mr. Benjamin L. Forster  
Harrisburg  
Dauphin Co.  
Penns